

THE KING WHO WAS ALMOST FREE

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INTRODUCTION

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- A. TEXT: *“And Agrippa said unto Paul, With but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian.” Acts 26:28.*
- B. SETTING:
1. Paul has made his appeal to Caesar.
 2. Festus, in order to be able to write an understandable charge, has asked Agrippa to hear the case.
 3. Chapter 26 is Paul’s defense before Agrippa.
 4. Closes with perhaps the most familiar line of all of the trials of Paul.
 5. *“Almost”* or with but little persuasion thou wouldst fain make me a Christian”
 6. Thus he became **“the king who was almost free.”**
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NATIONAL FREEDOM

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- A. Today marks the birth of our nation. “The Land of the Free”
1. It should be easy for us to look back at the events that led to the birth of this nation.
 2. “Give me liberty...or give me death”
- B. THE KEY WORD....**FREEDOM**
1. Our first war..War for independence...A war for freedom.
 2. We have come through two great world wars...all under the banner of Freedom.
- C. THE COST OF FREEDOM:
1. Valley Forge
 2. D. Day.
 3. Any great battle.
- D. SAD THOUGHT.....To be almost free.
- E. **To Lose Our Freedom....** *It is only maintained with unceasing vigil. If we do not endeavor to preserve this great heritage, we will go the way of many great nations before us.
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A GREATER FREEDOM

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- A. *“For freedom did Christ set us free”* (Gal. 5:1)
1. Spiritual Freedom
 2. Compared to physical freedom (I Cor. 10).
- B. *“For ye, brethren, were called for freedom”* (Gal. 5:13).
1. “Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love” (Co. 1;13).
 2. Great Because it is.....next point...
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FREEDOM FROM

A. SIN

1. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23).
2. "For the wages of sin is Death" (rom. 6:23).
3. "But the free gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23b).

B. BONDAGE:

1. I Cor. 10....the bondage of Israel...our example.
2. Think of what that freedom must have meant.

C. DEATH:

1. Gen. 2 & 3.
2. Ezek. 18:4

D. OUR VICTORY:

1. *"O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (I Cor. 15:57)
 2. I Corinthians 15:58. Quote
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COST OF FREEDOM

A. GOD:

1. JOHN 3:16
2. Psa. 22

B. CHRIST:

1. His arrest and Trial....THE CRUCIFIXION.
2. Sealed in a borrowed tomb.

C. Ourselves:

1. Seek ye first...God must be first in our life.
 2. Deny yourself...Take up your cross daily
 3. "Be thou faithful **unto** death."
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CONCLUSION

A. ARE YOU FREE?

1. John 8:32...ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"
2. John 8:36..."if therefore the son shall make you free ye shall be free indeed

B. SPIRITUAL FREEDOM is found no where else **only in Christ!**

C. ALMOST FREE:

1. Agrippa will forever be remembered as the king who was almost free.
 2. "Of all sad words....the saddest are these it might have been"
 3. **Are you Free....will you remain free**
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